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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 11th March 1959.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past two of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh

* 119 *Q*.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to—

(*a*) place on the table of the House a copy of the list of persons invited to be present at the Aerodrome on 31st January 1959 at the time of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh;

(*b*) state the basis on which the list of invitees has been drawn up; and

(*c*) state the place given to the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly and the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council at the time of introduction?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) A copy[a] of the list of persons invited to be present at the Aerodrome on 31st January 1959 at the time of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh is placed on the table of the House.

(*b*) The list is based on the list of invitees generally adopted for similar functions arranged at Delhi and other State Capitals and has the approval of the Government of India.

(*c*) The places given to the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly and the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council, namely, after M.Ps. and before the Chief Secretary to Government, are in accordance with their relative ranks in the Warrant of Precedence.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The Hon. the Leader of the House said that the list was prepared in accordance with the procedure obtaining at Delhi. But is he aware, as he himself was a Member of Parliament, that to such functions and receptions all the Members of Parliament are invited whereas we have seen from experience that on such occasions here in the City of Madras even the sitting Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council—duly elected representatives of the people—and even those who are in the City of Madras are not invited?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council were once invited to these functions. But the Government of India wanted to cut down

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[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 385–386 infra.

the large number of invitees to these functions and, therefore, only the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and the Leader of the Opposition in the Council were invited. There is nothing sacrosanct about it and we can consider this matter again.

SRI P. T. RAJAN : Why should we be bound by the Government of India?

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : It is not a question whether the Government were right or not. But I must point out that duly elected Members of the Legislature were not invited and that orders from the Government of India were received to say that there should not be a big crowd and that Members of the Legislature should not be there while, on the other hand, Members of Parliament—of the Lok Sabha and of the Council of States who were elected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly—were invited.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not think the hon. Member wants me to determine the Warrant of Precedence as between Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures. I think the job of having to introduce a very large number of people to the guest is sometimes found to be cumbersome. But invitation could always go to others. Government will consider it.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Has not the Warrant of Precedence been revised recently in relation to Members of State Legislatures giving due place to the Leaders of the Opposition and Leaders of parties? Has not that principle been observed in this case?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The principles relating to invitation of Members of Legislature have been observed. Only I thought the hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan said that Members of the Legislature might also be invited, and I said that the Government would certainly consider the matter.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Let not the Hon. the Leader of the House be under the impression that the Members of the Legislature are so keen or anxious to attend these functions. I would put it this way. Suppose some Members of the Legislature, at any rate, those who reside in the City of Madras, want to see, say, Pandit Nehru but are not invited because the Government feel that that would mean a large crowd. If they are not invited to the Government House because the Ministers have not advised the Governor to invite the Members, are they to stand on the pavements on either side of the Mount Road and get hustled by the huge crowd simply because they want to have just a look at the great personalities who visit us?

SRI P. T. RAJAN : Why do you want to look at them?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Certainly I do not think the Members of the Legislature should stand in the crowd and have a look at these personalities. I said that this matter might be looked into again. The Government will look into it and see how far the

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Members of the Legislature—at least those who are residing in the City of Madras—could be accommodated. We will see whether it would not be possible to send invitations to them though there may be some difficulty in introducing them.

SRI JOHN ASIRVATHAM : May I know why, in the matter of receiving eminent personalities visiting State Capitals, the State Government should look to the Government of India for guidance? Is it not left to the discretion of the State Governments?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The visitors are representatives of foreign Governments and the Warrant of Precedence with regard to reception to these persons is settled by the Government of India.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Even in the Warrant of Precedence, how is it that the rank of the Leaders of the Opposition in the Legislature comes next to Members of Parliament? On what basis is it settled?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That is the settled rank in the Warrant of Precedence. How it is settled is certainly a matter for the Government of India which settle it to consider.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Are all these persons in the list introduced to the personality at the aerodrome?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes. It is always done

SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திலிருந்து அமைச்சர்கள் நமது மாநிலத்திற்கு வரும்போது பல ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு விஜயம் செய்கிறார்கள். அப்பொழுது அந்தந்த ஜில்லாக்களிலிருக்கும் சட்டசபை உறுப்பினர் களுக்குக்கூடத் தெரிவிப்பது இல்லை. இனிமேலாவது தெரிவிப்பதற்கு சர்க் கார் வழி செய்யுமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : இங்கே இருக்கும் கேள்விக்கும் கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொல்வதற்கும் சம்பந்தம் இல்லை.

Sudarsan Oil Mills, Limited, Katpadi

* 120 *Q*.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 49 answered on 15th November 1957—

(*a*) whether the properties of Sudarsan Oil Mills, Limited, Katpadi, have since been sold; and

(*b*) if so, the amount realized towards the loan granted by the Government?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The distribution of sale proceeds is still in Court.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is it not a fact that up to 1957, both towards the main loan which is ten lakhs of rupees and the interest thereon which is somewhere near four lakhs of rupees, only a sum of Rs. 1·21 lakhs has come to the Government of Madras,